

LIST OF BIRDS

OBSERVED IN THE

VICINITY OF HAMILTON, C.W.

ARRANGED AFTER THE SYSTEM OF AUDUBON.

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From the Canadian Journal for July, 1860.

The object of the writer in preparing the following list, has been to afford such information as may be of use, should inquiry at any future period be made regarding the birds frequenting this part of the country. In its present state, the list has been drawn up from observations made during occasional excursions within a period of four years. Those who are acquainted with the subject will see that it is necessarily incomplete; but it will be easy to add the names of such species as may yet be found. In order that the list may be strictly local, no species has been mentioned which has not been found within six miles of the city limits.

Genus Buteo.—BUZZARD.

1. *B. borealis*—*Red-tailed Hawk*. Seen in spring and fall. Not very common.
2. *B. lineatus*—*Red-shouldered Hawk*. More plentiful than the preceding, which it resembles in appearance and habits.
3. *B. lagopus*—*Rough-legged Buzzard*. Frequents the marshy shores of the Bay; feeding on mice and wounded birds.
4. *B. Pennsylvanicus*—*Broad-winged Buzzard*. Abundant during spring. Frequents the meadows near the Lake.

Genus Haliaetus.—SEA EAGLE.

1. *H. leucocephalus*—*Bald Eagle*. A few pairs winter round the Bay Shore, feeding on musk-rats, gulls, &c. The young birds ~~are~~ of a uniform brown colour; being more plentiful, and more easily approached than the adult.

Genus Pandion.—OSPREY—FISH-HAWK.

1. *P. Haliaetus*—*Fish-Hawk*. Seen fishing in the Bay in spring and fall. Not known to breed here.

Genus Falco.—FALCON.

1. *F. peregrinus*—*Peregrine Falcon*. Accidental. Has been observed striking down ducks near Burlington Beach.
2. *F. columbarius*—*Pigeon Hawk*. Common in autumn, when it attends the flocks of blackbirds which roost in the marsh.

3. *F. sparverius*—*Sparrow Hawk*. More common than either of the preceding. Breeds near the city.

Genus *Astur*.—*HAWK*.

1. *A. cooperi*—*Cooper's Hawk*. Seen in spring and fall. Not common.

2. *A. fuscus*—*Sharp-shinned Hawk*. Seen in spring and fall. Not common.

Genus *Circus*.—*HARRIER*.

1. *C. cyaneus*—*Common Harrier*. Often seen sailing over the marshes; particularly during the fall.

Genus *Surnia*.—*DAY OWL*.

1. *S. funerea*—*Hawk Owl*. Occasionally met with during severe winters.

2. *S. nyctea*—*Snowy Owl*. Very plentiful during some winters, at the beach. Between November, 1858, and March, 1859, seventeen specimens were brought to market by fishermen and others. Between November, 1859, and March, 1860, only two individuals were killed.

Genus *Uro*.—*NIGHT OWL*.

1. *U. acadica*—*Saw-whet Owl*. Frequently caught during the day, in empty houses, throughout the country. Not seen in winter.

Genus *Syrnium*.—*HOOTING OWL*.

1. *S. nebulosum*—*Barred Owl*. The most common species of this family. Seen in spring and fall: not observed in summer.

Genus *Otus*.—*EARED OWL*.

1. *O. vulgaris*—*Long-Eared Owl*. Rather rare. Observed only in the fall.

2. *O. brachyotus*—*Short-Eared Owl*. More frequently seen than the preceding. Observed to hunt during the day, in cloudy weather.

Genus *Bubo*.—*HORNED OWL*.

1. *B. virginianus*—*Virginian Horned Owl*. Not very rare. No particular haunt.

2. *B. asio*—*Mottled Horned Owl*. One shot on the top of a store-house at Cook's Wharf, November, 1859.

Genus *Caprimulgus*.—*GOAT SUCKER*.

1. *C. vociferus*—*Whip-poor-Will*. Generally distributed. Common.

Genus *Chordeiles*.—*NIGHT HAWK*.

1. *C. virginianus*—*Night Hawk*. Abundant. Breeds in the woods near the Bay.

Genus *Chaetura*.—*SWIFT*.

1. *C. pelagica*—*Chimney Swallow*. Abundant everywhere.

Genus *Hirundo*.—*SWALLOW*.

1. *H. purpurea*—*Purple Martin*. Quite common in the city.

2. *H. bicolor*—*White-bellied Swallow*. Abundant. Generally distributed.

3. *H. fulva*—*Cliff Swallow*. Less common than the preceding. Builds in colonies on the outside of barns, &c.

4. *H. rustica*—*Barn Swallow*. Quite common. Builds inside of barns, &c.

5. *H. riparia*—*Bank Swallow*. Abundant. Nests in sand-banks round the Bay Shore and elsewhere.

Genus *Micropus*.—*FLYCATCHER*.

1. *M. tyrannus*—*Tyrant Flycatcher*. Generally distributed. Not abundant.

2. *M. crenita*—*Great Crested Flycatcher*. Quite common in the woods.

3. *M. Cooperi*—*Cooper's Flycatcher*. One individual shot in a swamp near the Bay Shore.

4. *M. Aedica*—*Small Green-created Flycatcher*. Abundant in the woods.

5. *M. fusca*—*Pee-wee Flycatcher*. Quite common. Builds ~~in~~ bridges, sheds, &c. *under*

6. *M. virens*—*Wood Pee-wee Flycatcher*. Less common than the preceding. Frequents dead trees.

7. *M. ruticilla*—*Redstart*. Common in the woods, in summer.

8. *M. flaviventris*—*Yellow bellied Flycatcher*. Only one found. (Not mentioned by Audubon.)

Genus *Mylodectes*.—*FLYCATCHER WARBLER*.

1. *M. mitratus*—*Hooded Warbler*. Only one specimen found.

2. *M. Canadensis*—*Canada Flycatcher*. Quite common during spring and early summer.

3. *M. Wilsoni*—*Wilson's Flycatcher*. Only one specimen found.

Genus *Sylvicola*.—*WOOD WARBLER*.

1. *S. coronata*—*Yellow-crowned Wood Warbler*. Abundant during spring and fall.

2. *S. striata*—*Black-poll Wood Warbler*. Rather rare. Arrives late and leaves early.

3. *S. castanea*—*Bay-breasted Wood Warbler*. A regular visitor in spring. Not numerous.

4. *S. heterocephala*—*Chestnut-sided Wood Warbler*. Rather common. Nests among the briars.

5. *S. Virens*—*Vine-creeping Wood Warbler*. Quite common. One of the first to arrive. *P P*

6. *S. Virens*—*Hemlock Warbler*. Observed in September only. *P*

7. *S. virens*—*Black-throated Green Wood Warbler*. Rather common in spring.

8. *S. maritima*—*Cape May Wood Warbler*. Rare. Two specimens procured.

9. *S. coerulescens*—*Cerulean Wood Warbler*. Abundant in some seasons; less so in others.

10. *S. Blackburnia*—*Blackburnian Wood Warbler*. A regular visitor, in uncertain numbers.

11. *S. aestiva*—*Yellow-poll Warbler*. Abundant. Builds in shade trees in the city.

12. *S. Petechia*—*Yellow Red-poll Warbler*. Common in the fall; rare in spring.

13. *S. Americana*—*Blue Yellow back Wood Warbler*. Not very plentiful.

14. *S. Canadensis*—*Black-throated Blue Wood Warbler*. Plentiful in spring.

15. *S. maculosa*—*Black and Yellow Wood Warbler*. An irregular spring visitor.

Genus *Trichas*.—*GROUND WARBLER*.

1. *T. Marylandica*—*Maryland Yellow-throat*. Not common near the city: more so in retired swamps. *mainly warbler*

2. *T. Philadelphia*. Rare. One found May 28th, 1860.

Genus *Helinaia*.—*SWAMP WARBLER*.

1. *H. celata*—*Orange crowned Swamp Warbler*. Only one specimen found.

2. *H. rubricapilla*—*Nashville Swamp Warbler*. Quite common. Breeds near the city.

3. *H. chrysoptera*—*Golden-winged Swamp Warbler*. Only one specimen found.
Genus *Mniotilta*.—CREEPING WABBLER.

1. *M. varia*—*Black and White Creeping Warbler*. Abundant in the woods.
Genus *Certhia*.—CREEPER.

1. *C. familiaris*—*Brown Tree Creeper*. Common. Resident.
Genus *Troglodytes*.—WREN.

1. *T. aedon*—*House Wren*. A few pairs spend the summer in the gardens of the city.

2. *T. hyemalis*—*Winter Wren*. Common in spring and fall.

3. *T. palustris*—*Marsh Wren*. Found in all the marshes round the Bay in summer.

Genus *Parus*.—TIT.

1. *P. atricapillus*—*Black-capped Tit*. Abundant. Resident.

Genus *Regulus*.—KINGLET.

1. *R. satrapa*—*Gold-crested Wren*. Plentiful in spring and fall.

2. *R. calendula*—*Ruby-crowned Wren*. Plentiful in spring and fall.

Genus *Sialia*.—BLUE BIRD.

1. *S. Wilsoni*—*Common Blue Bird*. Plentiful from early spring till late in the fall.

Genus *Orpheus*.—MOCKING BIRD.

1. *O. Carolinensis*—*Cat Bird*. Quite common. Frequents low thickets.

2. *O. rufus*—*Brown Thrush*. Less common than the preceding.

Genus *Turdus*.

1. *T. migratorius*—*Robin*. Abundant; breeds in the city gardens.

2. *T. mustelinus*—*Wood Thrush*. Rather rare. Frequents solitary woods.

3. *T. Wilsoni*—*Tawny Thrush*. Rather common.

4. *T. solitarius*—*Hermit Thrush*. Rather common. Similar in manner and haunt to the preceding.

Genus *Seiurus*.—WOOD WAGTAILS.

1. *S. auropallidus*—*Golden-crowned Wood Wagtail*. Common in the woods in summer.

2. *S. noveboracensis*—*Aquatic Wood Wagtail*. Common; less so than the preceding.

Genus *Anthus*.—PIPIT.

1. *A. ludovicianus*—*American Pipit*. Straggling flocks seen in spring and fall.

Genus *Alauda*.—LARK.

1. *A. alpestris*—*Shore Lark*. Occasionally seen in company with *Plectrophanes nivalis*.

Genus *Plectrophanes*.—LARK BUNTING.

1. *P. lapponica*—*Lapland Lark Bunting*. Occasionally found in company with the succeeding species.

2. *P. nivalis*—*Snow-flake*. Abundant while snow remains on the ground.

Genus *Emberiza*.—BUNTING.

1. *E. graminea*—*Bay-winged Bunting*. Found in any grass field in summer.

2. *E. Savanna*—*Savannah Bunting*. Rather rare. Similar in habits to the preceding.

3. *E. pusilla*—*Field Sparrow*. Not very numerous; breeds near the city.

4. *E. socialis*—*Chipping Sparrow*. Quite common. Builds in shade trees in streets.

5. *E. Canadensis*—*Tree Sparrow*. Small flocks seen during winter.

6. *E. passerina*—*Yellow-winged Bunting*. Rather rare.

Genus *Niphaea*—*SNOW BIRD*.

1. *N. hyemalis*—*Common Snow Bird*. Common. Resident.

Genus *Spiza*—*PAINTED BUNTING*.

1. *S. cyanea*—*Indigo Bird*. Common in the woods from May till September.

Genus *Ammodramus*—*SHORE FINCH*.

1. *A. palustris*—*Swamp Sparrow*. Breeds in the reed beds of the Bay.

Genus *Linaria*—*LINNET*.

1. *L. minor*—*Lesser Redpoll Linnet*. A winter visitor. Plentiful in some seasons; less so in others.

2. *L. pinus*—*Pine Linnet*. Less numerous than the preceding.

Genus *Carduelis*—*GOLD FINCH*.

1. *C. tristis*—*Gold Finch*. Abundant. A few remain during winter.

Genus *Fringilla*—*FINCH*.

1. *F. hieica*—*Fox-coloured Sparrow*. Accidental in the fall.

2. *F. melodia*—*Song Sparrow*. Abundant from March till November.

3. *F. Pennsylvanica*—*White Throated Sparrow*. Common in spring and fall.

4. *F. leucophrys*—*White-crowned Sparrow*. Rather rare. Only seen in spring.

Genus *Pipilo*—*GROUND FINCH*.

1. *P. erythrophthalmus*—*Towhee Bunting*. Not very numerous.

Genus *Erythropsiza*—*PURPLE FINCH*.

1. *E. purpurea*—*Purple Finch*. Occasional in the woods in winter.

Genus *Corythus*—*PINE FINCH*.

1. *C. enucleator*—*Pine Grosbeak*. A winter visitor, appearing in considerable numbers in some seasons, and not at all in others. Common during the winter of 1859-60.

Genus *Loxia*—*CROSSBILL*.

1. *L. Curvirostra*—*Crossbill*. An irregular winter visitor.

Genus *Coccothorus*—*SONG GROSBGAK*.

1. *C. Ludovicianus*—*Rose-breasted Grosbeak*. Not very numerous. Frequents secluded groves.

Genus *Pyrauga*—*RED BIRD*.

1. *P. rubra*—*Scarlet Tanager*. Common in the woods in summer.

Genus *Dolichonyx*—*RICE BIRD*.

1. *D. oryzivora*—*Bob-o-link*. Common. Frequents grass fields.

Genus *Molothrus*—*COW BIRD*.

1. *M. pecoris*—*Common Cow Bird*. Abundant all over the country.

Genus *Agelaius*—*MARSH BLACKBIRD*.

1. *A. phoeniceus*—*Red-winged Starling*. Abundant in all the marshes.

Genus Icterus.—HANG VEST.

1. I. Baltimore—*Baltimore Oriole*. Common in the woods and orchards.

Genus Quiscalus.—CROW BLACKBIRD.

1. Q. versicolor—*Crow Blackbird*. Seen in spring and fall. Not observed to breed near the city.

2. Q. ferrugineus—*Rusty Grackle*. Abundant in the fall, when they spend the day in the ploughed fields, and roost in the reeds of the marsh at night.

Genus Sturnella.—MEADOW STARLING.

- S. Ludovicianus—*Meadow Lark*. Common from early spring till late in the fall.

Genus Corvus.—CROW.

1. C. Americanus—*Common Crow*. The main body migratory; a few resident.

Genus Garrulus.—JAY.

1. G. cristatus—*Blue Jay*. Common. A few resident.

Genus Lanius.—SHRIKE.

1. L. borealis—*American Shrike*. A few individuals seen every winter.
2. L. ludovicianus—*Loggerhead Shrike*.^{*} Two individuals shot in April, 1860. Not observed prior to that date.

Genus Vireo.

1. V. flavifrons—*Yellow-throated Vireo*. Not very numerous.
2. V. gilvus—*Warbling Greenlet*. Rather common. Visits the shade trees in the city.
3. V. olivaceus—*Red-eyed Greenlet*. Common in the woods in summer.

Genus Bombycilla.—WAXWING.

1. B. garrula—*Bohemian Chatterer*. An irregular winter visitor. Usually seen in company with the pine grosbeak.

2. B. carolinensis—*Cedar Bird*. Quite common during summer, frequently staying late in the fall.

Genus Sitta.—NUTHATCH.

1. S. carolinensis—*White-bellied Nuthatch*. Common. Resident.
2. S. canadensis—*Red-bellied Nuthatch*. Common. Not seen in summer.

Genus Trochilus.—HUMMING BIRD.

1. T. colubris—*Ruby-throated Humming Bird*. Common. Seen wherever there are flowers in summer.

Genus Alcedo.—KINGFISHER.

1. A. alcyon—*Belted Kingfisher*. Common along the Bay shores.

Genus Picus.—WOODPECKER.

1. P. villosus—*Hairy Woodpecker*. Quite common. Resident.
2. P. pubescens—*Downy Woodpecker*. Quite common. Resident.
3. P. varius—*Yellow-bellied Woodpecker*. Common during summer; breeds near the city.

^{*}It is possible that this may prove to be the *Collyrio excubitoroides* of Baird, as according to that author, *L. ludovicianus* is found only in the South Atlantic and Gulf States; while *C. excubitoroides* has been gradually advancing from the west, and might be expected to occur here about this time. Without comparing specimens, it is difficult to distinguish between the two.

4. *P. Arcticus*—*Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker*. Rare. Two specimens procured in November, 1959.

5. *P. Carolinensis*—*Red-bellied Woodpecker*. Rather rare. Not seen in winter.

6. *P. erythrocephalus*—*Red-headed Woodpecker*. Common in the country; less so near the city.

7. *P. auratus*—*Gold-winged Woodpecker*. Quite common. Breeds near the city.

Genus *Coccyzus*.—AMERICAN CUCKOO.

1. *C. erythrophthalmus*—*Black-billed Cuckoo*. Not very rare.

Genus *Ectopistes*.—LONG-TAILED DOVE.

1. *E. migratoria*—*Passenger Pigeon*. A regular visitor, in uncertain numbers.

2. *E. Carolinensis*—*Carolina Dove*. Accidental, in the fall.

Genus *Oortyx*.—AMERICAN PARTRIDGE.

1. *O. Virginiana*—*Partridge Quail*. Common in fall and winter.

Genus *Tetrao*.—GROUSE.

1. *T. umbellus*—*Ruffed Grouse*. Common. Resident.

Genus *Gallinula*.—GALLENULE.

1. *G. chloropus*—*Common Gallenule*. Found in the marshes. Not very numerous.

Genus *Fulica*.—COOT.

1. *F. Americana*—*Common Coot*. Found in the marshes. Not plentiful.

Genus *Ortygometra*.—CRANE GALLENULE.

1. *O. Carolinus*—*Sora Rail*. Extremely abundant in all the marshes during summer.

Genus *Rallus*.—RAIL.

1. *R. crepitans*—*Clapper Rail*. Occasional, in the marsh.

2. *R. Virginianus*—*Virginian Rail*. More plentiful than the preceding.

3. *R. elegans*—*Great Red-breasted Rail*. Accidental. One specimen found.

Genus *Charadrius*.—PLOVER.

1. *C. Helveticus*—*Black-bellied Plover*. A regular visitor at the Beach in spring and fall.

2. *C. marmoratus*—*Golden Plover*. More numerous than the preceding.

3. *C. vociferus*—*Killdeer Plover*. Occasional. Never numerous.

4. *C. semipalmatus*—*Ring Plover*. Numerous in spring and fall.

Genus *Streptopelia*.—TURNSTONE.

1. *S. interpres*—*Turnstone*. Occasional at the beach.

Genus *Tringa*.—SANDPIPER.

1. *T. pectoralis*—*Pectoral Sandpiper*. Abundant in the fall.

2. *T. alpina*—*Red-backed Sandpiper*. Extremely abundant about the 25th of May.

3. *T. subarquata*—*Curlew Sandpiper*. Occasional. Not numerous.

4. *T. himantopus*—*Long-legged Sandpiper*. A few seen at the beach every season.

5. *T. semipalmata*—*Semipalmated Sandpiper*. Very abundant in spring and fall.

6. *T. pusilla*—*Little Sandpiper*. Not quite so numerous as the preceding, with which it associates.

7. *T. arenaria*—*Sanderling Sandpiper*. Quite common at the beach.
 8. *T. islandica*—*Red-headed Sandpiper*. Never very numerous. *breasted*

Genus *Lobipes*.—LOBEFOOT.

1. *L. hyperboreus*—*Hyperborean Lobe-foot*. Occasionally seen in small ponds near the bay.

Genus *Totanus*.—TATLER.

1. *T. macularius*—*Spotted Tatler*. Breeds near all the muddy creeks round the Bay.
 2. *T. flavipes*—*Yellow-shanks Tatler*. Rather common during spring and fall.
 3. *T. vociferus*—*Tell-tale Tatler*. Less numerous than the preceding.

Genus *Limosa*.—GODWIT.

1. *L. fedoa*—*Great Marbled Godwit*. Occasional. Not numerous.
 2. *L. hudsonica*—*Hudsonian Godwit*. Rather rare.

Genus *Scolopax*.—SNIFE.

1. *S. wilsoni*—*Wilson's Snipe*. Abundant. Migratory.

Genus *Numenius*.—CURLEW.

1. *N. longirostris*—*Long-billed Curlew*. Accidental on the Lake Shore.
 2. *N. hudsonicus*—*Hudsonian Curlew*. Less frequent than the preceding.

Genus *Ardea*.—HERON.

1. *A. nycticorax*—*Black-crowned Night Heron*. Accidental. Migratory.
 2. *A. lentiginosa*—*American Bittern*. Abundant in all the marshes.
 3. *A. exilis*—*Least Bittern*. Less numerous than the preceding.
 4. *A. herodias*—*Great Blue Heron*. Rather common.

Genus *Anser*.—GOOSE.

1. *A. canadensis*—*Canada Goose*. A few rest on the Bay in their migratory course.
 2. *A. hyperboreus*—*Snow Goose*. Accidental, in the Bay.

Genus *Cygnus*.—SWAN.

1. *C. americanus*—*American Swan*. Accidental, in the Bay.

Genus *Anas*.—DUCK.

1. *A. boschas*—*Mallard*. Common. Migratory.
 2. *A. obscura*—*Dusky Duck*. Common. Migratory.
 3. *A. strepera*—*Gadwall*. Rare. Only two individuals seen.
 4. *A. americana*—*Widgeon*. Numerous in spring and fall.
 5. *A. acuta*—*Pin-tail Duck*. Occasional. Not numerous.
 6. *A. sponsa*—*Wood Duck*. Quite common. A few breed near the marsh.
 7. *A. carolinensis*—*Green-winged Teal*. Numerous in spring and fall.
 8. *A. discors*—*Blue-winged Teal*. Less numerous than the preceding.
 9. *A. clypeata*—*Shoveller*. Rather rare.

Genus *Fuligula*.—SEA DUCK.

1. *F. valisneriana*—*Canvass-back Duck*. Accidental. Only two individuals seen.
 2. *F. ferina*—*Red-head Duck*. Rather common.
 3. *F. marila*—*Scaup Duck*. Abundant in spring and fall.

*Genus Micropodestes
American Woodcock
breeds near the city*

4. *F. marila minor*—*Lesser Scaup Duck*. Abundant. Not distinguished by Audubon from the preceding.

5. *F. rubida*—*Ruddy Duck*. Immense numbers taken with the gill-nets in some seasons: not seen in others.

6. *F. fusca*—*Velvet Duck*. Occasional, in stormy weather.

7. *F. clangula*—*Golden-Eye Duck*. Not very numerous.

8. *F. albeola*—*Dipper*. Abundant in spring and fall.

9. *F. glacialis*—*Long-tailed Duck*. Abundant. Winters in the Lake. Often caught in the gill-nets along with white-fish, twelve miles from shore, and at a depth of 200ft. to 250ft.

Genus *Mergus*.—MERGANSER.

1. *M. merganser*—*Goosander*. Not very plentiful.

2. *M. serrator*—*Red-breasted Merganser*. Not very plentiful.

3. *M. cucullatus*—*Hooded Merganser*. More numerous than either of the preceding.

Genus *Sterna*.—TERN.

1. *S. hirundo*—*Common Tern*. Visits the Bay about the end of May.

2. *S. nigra*—*Black Tern*. Usually accompanies the preceding.

Genus *Larus*.—GULL.

1. *L. Bonapartii*—*Bonaparte's Gull*. Common during fall.

2. *L. argentatus*—*Herring Gull*. Winters at the beach.

3. *L. marinus*—*Great Black backed Gull*. Winters at the beach. Very difficult of approach.

Genus *Uria*.—GUILLEMOT.

1. *U. grylle*—*Black Guillemot*. Accidental, after easterly storms.

2. *U. Troile*—*Foolish Guillemot*. Accidental, after stormy weather.

Genus *Colymbus*.—DIVER.

1. *C. glacialis*—*Loon*. Often seen in the Bay.

2. *C. septentrionalis*—*Red-throated Diver*. Immature specimens frequent; the adult not observed.

Genus *Podiceps*.—GREBE.

1. *P. rubicollis*—*Red-necked Grebe*. Rather rare. Seen only in spring.

2. *P. cornutus*—*Horned Grebe*. Common during summer.

3. *P. Carolinensis*—*Pied-bill Dabchick*. Not so numerous as the preceding.

